GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1604
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the educationally backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, since when the districts were identified alongwith the names of the said districts, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted for identification of such districts;

(d) the steps taken to bring these districts educationally at par with other districts; and

(e) the achievement of the Government as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): 105 Special Focus Districts were initially identified during the year 2005. The Schemes under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, however, target educationally backward blocks. Further, University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2007, has identified educationally backward districts mainly based on the criterion of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) less than National Average. The list of these educationally backward districts is annexed. The Government proposes to incentivise State Governments to establish one college in each of these districts during the XI Five Year Plan. These steps will significantly contribute in increasing the access of education alongwith inclusiveness in the educationally backward districts.